

Appl. No.: 10/725,241
Filed: August 2, 2007
Amdt. Dated November 18, 2008

REMARKS

This response is submitted along with a request for a one month extension and appropriate fee subsequent to the Notice of Appeal filed on August 18, 2008 and in reply to the final Office Action dated February 19, 2008 and the Advisory Action of August 29, 2008.

Claims 1-36 are now pending in the present application. Claim 36 is allowed. Claim 11 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-10 and 12-35 are rejected.

By virtue of filing this amendment after final rejection that incorporates allowable subject matter into independent claims 1 and 26, Applicants withdraw the present application from the Appeal process. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 26 to include the allowable subject matter from claim 11. Intervening claims 7 and 8 have also been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 26. By virtue of the incorporation of allowable subject matter from claim 11 and the inclusion of the subject matter of intervening claims 7 and 8, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 26 are patentable over the cited references, alone or in combination. Dependent claims 2-6, 9, 10, 12-25 and 27-35 are also patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claim 1 or 26.

Due to the incorporation of claims 7, 8 and 11 into independent claims 1 and 26, claims 7, 8 and 11 have been canceled. Claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 23 formerly depended from either claim 7, 8 or 11 and thus have now been amended to change their dependencies due to the cancelation of claims 7, 8 and 11. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

In light of the amendment and the remarks presented below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all now-pending claims of the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendment and the remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present invention.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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